

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. *(Currently Amended)* An information searching apparatus comprising:
 - an index information registering device that registers a word extracted from a document in association with the document as index information for document search;
 - a document searching device that searches a document corresponding to information relating to a requested search by referring to the index information registered by said index information registering device;
 - an unknown word extracting device that extracts an unknown word which is not in a dictionary from the document being searched;
 - a document type determining device that determines whether a type of the document being searched is a character recognition processed document that has been processed through a character recognition device; and
a permitting/inhibiting designating device that designate whether said index information registering device is permitted or inhibited to register as the index information the unknown word extracted by said unknown word extracting device from the document being searched when the document being searched is the character recognition processed document; and
a registration permitting/inhibiting deciding device that decides, when the type of the document being searched is the character recognition processed document, to inhibit said index information registering device from registering as the index information the unknown word extracted from the document being searched by said unknown word extracting device if said permitting/inhibiting designating device designates to inhibit said index information registering device from registering.

2-3. *(Canceled)*

4. *(Currently Amended)* An information searching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
~~— said document type determining device determines whether the type of the document being searched is a character recognition processed document including character codes obtained by a character recognition process; and~~
~~— said registration permitting/inhibiting deciding device is operable, when the type of the document being searched is not the character recognition processed document, to permits said index information registering device to register as the index information the unknown word~~

extracted from the document being searched by said unknown word extracting device when the type of document is not the character recognition processed document.

5. (Currently Amended) An information searching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
~~_____ said document type determining device determines whether the type of the document being searched is a character recognition processed document including character codes obtained by a character recognition process;~~
~~_____ the information searching apparatus further comprises comprising a character correcting device operable, when the type of the document being searched is the character recognition processed document, to that corrects an error in the character codes included in the document being searched when the type of the document being searched is the character recognition processed document; and,~~

wherein said unknown word extracting device extracts the unknown word from the document having the error corrected by said character correcting device.

6. (Currently Amended) An information searching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
said document type determining device determines whether the type of the document being searched is an image document;
the information searching apparatus further comprises:
[[a]] the character recognition processing device, which operable, when the type of the document being searched is an image document, to obtains character codes from the image document by performing a character recognition process when the type of the document being searched is an image document;[[,]] and

a character correcting device that corrects an error in the character codes included in the document subjected to the character recognition processed by said character recognition processing device; and,

wherein said unknown word extracting device extracts the unknown word from the document being searched after correction of the document by said character correcting device.

7. (Previously Presented) An information searching apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said character correcting device refers to a character correction dictionary, in which characters having similar character patterns are stored in association with each other, and a word dictionary for comparing character strings, and corrects the error by changing an associated

character code included in the character recognition processed document to a character composing a character candidate string, out of character candidate strings produced by adding at least one character pattern in the character correction dictionary to at least one character code included in the character recognition processed document, and matching a word included in the word dictionary.

8. *(Previously Presented)* An information searching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said document type determining device determines the type of the document being searched, based on at least one of a filename extension of the document being searched and attribute information added in advance to the document being searched.

9-10. *(Cancelled)*

11. *(Currently Amended)* An information searching method comprising:

an index information registering step of registering a word extracted from a document in association with the document as index information for document search;

a document search step of searching a document corresponding to information relating to a requested search by referring to the index information registered in said index information registering step;

an unknown word extracting step of extracting an unknown word which is not in a dictionary from the document being searched;

a document type determining step of determining whether a type of the document being searched is a character recognition processed document that has been processed through a character recognition device; and

a permitting/inhibiting designating step of designating whether said index information registering step is permitted or inhibited to register as the index information the unknown word extracted in said unknown word extracting step from the document being searched when the document being searched is the character recognition processed document; and

a registration permitting/inhibiting deciding step of deciding, when the type of the document being searched is the character recognition processed document, to inhibit in said index information registering step to register as the index information the unknown word extracted from the document being searched in said unknown word extracting step if said

permitting/inhibiting designating step designates to inhibit registering in said index information registering step.

12. (*Canceled*)

13. (*Currently Amended*) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-executable information searching program comprising:

an index information registering module for registering a word extracted from a document in association with the document as index information for document search;

a document search module for searching a document corresponding to information relating to a requested search by referring to the index information registered by said index information registering module;

an unknown word extracting module for extracting an unknown word which is not in a dictionary from the document being searched;

a document type determining module for determining whether a type of the document being searched is a character recognition processed document that has been processed through a character recognition device; and

a permitting/inhibiting designating module for designating whether said index information registering module is permitted or inhibited to register as the index information the unknown word extracted in said unknown word extracting step from the document being searched when the document being searched is the character recognition processed document; and

a registration permitting/inhibiting deciding module for deciding, when the type of the document being searched is the character recognition processed document, to inhibit said index information registering module from registering as the index information the unknown word extracted from the document being searched by said unknown word extracting module if said permitting/inhibiting designating module designates to inhibit registering in said index information registering module.

14-16. (*Canceled*)